

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended to put it into independent form. Claims 6, 10 and 11 have been amended. Claims 4, 5, and 7-9 and 12-14 remain in the application in their original form. New claims 15 and 16 have been added.

Allowable claim 3 has been rewritten into independent form. Allowable claims 4-8 continue to depend either directly or indirectly from claim 3. Allowed claims 9 and 11-14 remain in the application. It is submitted that new claims 15 and 16 are also allowable.

Claims 15 and 16 specify laterally spaced apart movable conveyor slats and laterally spaced apart fixed conveyor slats between the movable conveyor slats. See Figs. 1 and 2, for example. The fixed conveyor slats have a V-shaped cross-section formed by side portions which extend upwardly and outwardly from a valley. The movable conveyor slats have a V-shaped cross-section which is formed by side portions that slope outwardly and downwardly from an apex. As clearly shown by Fig. 2, the side portions of the movable conveyor slats are positioned above side portions of the fixed conveyor slats. Claim 15 also includes a plurality of transverse drive beams positioned below the fixed and movable slats. In Figs. 1 and 2, one of the transverse drive beams is designated 56. The movable conveyor slats are divided into sets equal number to the transverse drive beams. The movable slats of each set are connected to the transverse drive beam for that set. The transverse drive beams are movable below the movable conveyor slats that are connected to a different transverse drive beam, and below the fixed conveyor slats. For example, in Fig. 2, a movable conveyor slat 20 is shown connected to the transverse drive beam 56. The fixed conveyor slat 12 positioned to its right in the drawing figure and the adjacent movable conveyor slat 10 are positioned above the transverse drive beam 56. As it reciprocates, the transverse drive beam 56 moves in a space that is below

App. No. 10/759,399
Date October 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2004

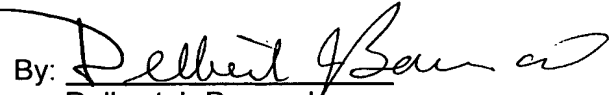
the fixed conveyor slats and the other movable conveyor slats that are connected to the other transverse drive beams.

New claim 16 depends from claim 15 and adds the feature of the fixed conveyor slats including longitudinal support beams which extend over the transverse drive beams. In Fig. 2, an example of one of these support beams is designated 48.

It is submitted that new claims 15 and 16 are allowable together with previously allowed claims 3-14. Early reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond Keith Foster

By: 
Delbert J. Barnard
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 20, 515
(206) 381-3100

Delbert J. Barnard/ks